

Message Text

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ORIGIN INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 L-02

ACDA-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-05 IO-10 AID-05 EB-07 AF-06 SAM-01

NEA-09 EA-06 /105 R

DRAFTED BY INR/RNA/NE:TMCANDREW:RM

APPROVED BY EUR/RPM:EJSTREATOR

EUR/RPM:DTELLEN

EUR/SOV:RMILES

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P R 202222Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

INFO USLOSACLANT

USNMR SHAPE

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S E C R E T STATE 063685

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, NATO

SUBJECT: NATO STUDY ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF REOPENING THE
SUEZ CANAL

REFS: A) USNATO 1442; B) STATE 62345

1. WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT'S DRAFT PAPER ON THE SUEZ CANAL, REF A.
2. PROSPECTS FOR THE REOPENING OF THE SUEZ CANAL, PARAGRAPH (B): WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE TEXT REFLECT AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE PRECISELY WHAT FAHMI AND SADAT ACTUALLY
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SAID ON THIS SUBJECT. THEREFORE, THIS PARAGRAPH SHOULD BE

MODIFIED TO READ AS SET FORTH IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF SECSTATE
041756.

3. POLITICAL AND STRATEGIC, PARAGRAPH 22: WE STILL HAVE
PROBLEMS WITH THIS PARAGRAPH. IN OUR JUDGMENT, LOSS OF
BERBERA "RIGHTS" WOULD BE MORE THAN A MERE "INCONVENIENCE,"
BOTH ON MILITARY AND POLITICAL GROUNDS, FOR THE SOVIET
UNION. FURTHERMORE, THE NEW INSTALLATION UNDER CON-
STRUCTION NEAR BERBERA COULD PROVIDE THE SOVIETS WITH A
POTENT SUPPORT FACILITY FOR SOVIET NAVAL AND AIR ACTIVITIES
IN THE INDIAN OCEAN REGION.

4. ANNEX II, FOOTNOTE 1: FOR COMPLETENESS, IT MIGHT BE
NOTED THAT EGYPTIAN DESTROYERS HAVE NAVIGATED THE CANAL
THIS MONTH.

5. ANNEX II, FOOTNOTE 10.A., RED SEA OUTLETS, (I) SOMALIA:
CHANGE LAST SENTENCE TO READ "STRATEGIC
ROAD FROM BELET WEN TO BURAO."

6. ANNEX II, 10.B, PERSIAN GULF OUTLETS, IRAQ: THE
SOVIETS HAVE PROVIDED IRAQ WITH ASSISTANCE FOR MANY SECTORS
OF THE IRAQI ECONOMY. THEREFORE, WE SUGGEST DELETION OF
THE PARENTHETICAL EXPRESSION IN LINE 4 "LARGELY TO
DEVELOP THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY." INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MARINE TRANSPORTATION, SUEZ CANAL, MILITARY POLICIES, STUDIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE063685
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TMCANDREW:RM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750098-0397
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750330/aaaabbgc.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN INR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 USNATO 1442, 75 STATE 62345
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <22 SEP 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATO STUDY ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF REOPENING THE SUEZ CANAL
TAGS: PFOR, MILI, NATO
To: NATO BRUSSELS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006